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Mortality report for the week ended March 5, 1904.

Causes of death.	Number.	Bertillon number.
Malarial fever.....	1	4
Pernicious fever.....	1	4
Hæmoglobinuric fever.....	1	4
Tubercle of larynx.....	1	26
Tubercle of lungs.....	1	27
Syphilis, hereditary.....	1	36
Cerebral softening.....	1	65
Tetanus, infantile.....	1	72
Endocarditis.....	1	78
Organic heart disease.....	1	79
Pneumonia.....	1	93
Intestinal occlusion.....	1	108
Cirrhosis.....	1	112
Bright's disease.....	1	120
Congenital icterus.....	1	151
Cyanosis of the new born.....	1	152
Ill defined or unspecified.....	1	179
Total.....	17

Annual rate of mortality for the week, 19.42 per 1,000. Estimated population, 45,500.

FRANCE.

Epidemic of typhoid fever at Brest.

Consul Ridgeley, at Nantes, reports, February 18, as follows:

Much attention has been called to an epidemic of typhoid fever which has prevailed for some time past in the garrison of infantry at Brest. Brest is a city of 80,000 inhabitants, situated on the extreme western headland of France, and is the most important naval port of the Republic. It is also an important military garrison.

Typhoid fever declared itself nearly three months ago in the ranks of the soldiers, and since that time 120 cases have been treated at the marine hospital. There have been 15 deaths at this hospital, and there are still 71 cases under treatment. In the city itself there have been during the same period only about 30 deaths, which is not considered very extraordinary. The total number of cases in the city, however, has not been officially reported.

The causes of the epidemic do not appear entirely clear, though a sanitary commission which came from Paris to study them concluded that the water used at the barracks had been contaminated by the lavoirs in which the troops washed their clothes. This opinion, however, is not concurred in by the inhabitants and the local authorities, who contend, on the other hand, that the water supplied to the garrison from springs in the neighborhood is of a pure and excellent quality. It is held by many of the latter that the real cause of the epidemic was the foul condition of the old and dirty barracks and the crowding together of the soldiers in limited quarters. The weather has been very wet for six months, and the damp clothes of the troops hanging about the crowded quarters where they slept exuded, it is claimed, the germs of miasma which resulted in the epidemic of typhoid. In support of this last contention, as against the report of the Paris commission, the fact is cited that in another adjacent barracks which is much less crowded and better ventilated not a single case of typhoid has appeared.

However, in view of the report of the commission, the use of water from the springs in question was suppressed, the contaminated barracks were abandoned and disinfected, and all the troops that had occupied them, except those ill at the hospital, were sent to a distant camp.

Nothing of an epidemic character has awakened so much interest throughout France for several years. The epidemic is considered here as having been quite malignant, at least among the troops, if not in the city of Brest.

GERMANY.

Report from Berlin—Plague and cholera in various countries.

Consul-General Mason reports, February 29, as follows:

Plague.

Egypt.—During the period from January 30 to February 13, 1 case of plague was registered in Egypt, viz, in Alexandria, on February 8.

British South Africa.—In Cape Colony, during the week ended January 23, no fresh cases of plague were reported, but plague-infected rats continue to be found in Port Elizabeth, East London, and Knysna.

Mauritius.—During the period from December 4 to 31, 1903, there were registered on the island 274 cases of plague (with 165 deaths). During the first week of January there occurred 55 cases of plague (with 27 deaths).

Plague and cholera.

British India.—In Calcutta, during the week ended January 16, 16 persons died of cholera and 12 persons died of plague.

INDIA.

Report from Calcutta—Precautions against the spread of plague—Circular.

Passed Assistant Surgeon Sprague, at Calcutta, reports, February 18, as follows:

I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a circular to be printed in the Hindee and Urdu dialects for distribution in the plague-infected quarters of this city.

The efforts of the local health authorities to control the disease by the removal of dwellings in congested centers, which has been going on for the past two or three years and is still in progress, and by disinfection and other measures may be showing some effect. At any rate, the death rate at present is only about one-fourth what it was at the corresponding season last year.

CIRCULAR.

PLAGUE DEPARTMENT—PRECAUTIONS AGAINST THE SPREAD OF PLAGUE.

1. Do not sleep on the bare ground at night, but on a charpoy, box, or shelf.
2. Do not touch a dead rat with the hands or eat grain in which dead rats have been found.
3. Throw outside the dwelling all waste which rats will eat or upon which flies will settle.
4. Avoid the breath and do not touch the face of a person dying or dead from plague.